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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT 1958 Training Program for the SED

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Kampfgruppen

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. According to the program prepared in the East German Ministry for the Interior (dated 1 February 1958) for the training of Kampfgruppe units during 1958, the Kampfgruppen are to be developed into useful adjuncts of the East German Army, the Soviet Army and the armed forces of the satellite states. Stripped of its Communist "Double Peak", the official program calls for propagandizing hate against West Germany and its western allies who are "responsible for Germany's division". In addition, the aim of the program is to produce militarily trained, obedient, disciplined and effective fighters who can be used to maintain internal security and to combat internal enemies and whose combat readiness is constantly maintained and improved. Supreme authority over the Kampfgruppen rests in the Central Committee of the SED with the chain of command running through the Ministry of the Interior via the chief of the "People's Police" (Vopo) and the chief of the Main Administration for the People's Police.
2. The Kampfgruppe 1958 training year begins 1 April and extends to 31 December 1958. Eight hours of drill per month are required for the nine month period, a total of 72 training hours including weapon maintenance time. Drills missed because of alarms or maneuvers, unless these are part of the set program, must be made up.
3. Kampfgruppe unit commanders at all levels are to have personal responsibility for the training of the men under them and for the effectiveness of that training. Company commanders must organize the training and education of the officers under them and are personally obligated to supervise and control the work of all units within their command. Platoon and squad leaders are similarly to organize and control training effectiveness at their own levels. All three officer ranks are to make regular progress reports in the journals of the Main Administration for the People's Police (HVDVP). These reports are to be checked at least quarterly by the Commander of the Kreis area Kampfgruppe Staff.
4. Training is to be conducted by the method of complexes, all elements interrelated to a central theme. The training themes themselves are to be worked out by the responsible officers beforehand. methods of presentation

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discussed and points of emphasis established. Efforts are to be made to make the material interesting and effective. Instruction is to be well prepared at least a week before each drill takes place. Military and police tactical maneuvers are to be stressed as well as nocturnal training in all types of weather conditions. Before each drill commences, Kampfgruppe participants are to be checked individually with respect to dress, equipment and weapons. Ammunition is to be strictly controlled and none carried off after a maneuver. Each unit should attempt to find for itself maneuver areas, shooting stands, target ranges, hand grenade ranges, map rooms, weapon technique rooms, and a 200 meter assault course (Sturmabahn).

5. 42 hours of the training program (of a total of 72 hours) are to be devoted to the study and application of tactics in respect to eight "themes":
 1. Use of the platoon for clearing streets and squares, with or without tactical weapons and vehicles - 7 hours
 2. Use of individuals and squads in blockading an area - 2 hours
 3. The company carrying out a forest operation - 5 hours
 4. The squad attacking a building - 3 hours
 5. The squad defending a building - 4 hours
 6. The platoon attacking and forcing an opponent out of a position, under both daylight and night conditions - 7 hours
 7. The platoon defending a position under both daylight and night conditions - 7 hours
 8. The company attacking against defenders of an entrenched position and fighting in the midst of the opponent's defenses - 7 hours.
6. Training in the care and use of weapons is scheduled to consume 24 hours of the training program. Maintenance, handling and marksmanship with the carbine, submachine gun and light machine gun are included. All shooting exercises are to be strictly controlled and each such exercise reported in detail in the aforementioned journals of the People's Police. All Kampfgruppe members must complete all prescribed preliminary training and exercises before being permitted to fire a weapon. The shooting exercises are to be divided into six categories, two with each type of weapon.
 - a. Carbine (I) - shooting at a fixed silhouette type target (upper half of a human figure), 0.75x0.75 meters in diameter. Three shells are permitted each man to be fired from a prone, fixed position, time unlimited. Evaluation of the shooting: 3 hits with 2 in the center ring - excellent, (at 100 meters) 2 hits on the target - good, 1 hit on the target - satisfactory.
 - Carbine (II) - same target moving, appearing 5 times for 10 seconds each time, at 200 meters distance. Five shots permitted from a prone position, weapon free. Evaluation: 4 hits - excellent, 3 hits - good, 1 hit - satisfactory. Exercise to be repeated at night with larger target.
 - b. Submachine gun (I) - Fixed target (0.75x0.75 meters across), nine shots from a prone position, weapon fixed. Target checked after first three shots and again at the end of the exercise. 3 hits rated excellent, 2 good and 1 satisfactory. Those with 2 or more hits in the first three shots are permitted to fire the next six shots in not more than two bursts of fire. Target distance - 50 meters.
 - Submachine gun (II) - a moving target composed of three half-figure silhouettes measuring 6 meters across together, target appearing three times for 15 seconds each time with 7 or 8 seconds between appearances. Nine shots permitted from a prone fixed position in not more than three burst of fire. 3 hits are rated excellent, 2 good and 1 satisfactory. Exercise is to be repeated at night with 3 full-size figure targets appearing once for 30 seconds. Nine shots permitted. Distance - 100 meters.
 - c. Light machine gun (I) - Fixed machine gun target (1x1 meter) at 100 meters. 5 shots from a prone, prepared position, no more than two bursts of fire. 4 hits excellent, 3 good, 2 satisfactory.
 - Light machine gun (II) - Three moving figures target with a 6 meter front appearing for 15 seconds at 300 meters. 12 shots to be fired in not more than 3 bursts from a prone prepared position. To be repeated at night at 200 meters distance. 3 hits excellent, 2 good, 1 satisfactory.

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